



The Distributor

Smokey Point Distributing, Inc.
March 2010 Volume VII, Edition III



Happy Birthday

"On with the dance! Let joy be unconfined; No sleep till morn when youth and pleasure meet to chase the glowing hours with flying feet." ~Lord Byron

◆ Joseph Weber	Mar 5th
◆ Jeff Hillyer	Mar 8th
◆ Rick Romero	Mar 12th
◆ Randy White	Mar 13th
◆ Brian Pederson	Mar 14th
◆ Heidi Minter	Mar 16th
◆ Michael Kuehn	Mar 18th
◆ Linda LaCount	Mar 19th
◆ Sandy Martin	Mar 20th
◆ Peter Burke	Mar 21st
◆ Lisa Upton	Mar 23rd
◆ Henry LaCount	Mar 25th
◆ Brian Michener	Mar 25th
◆ Chris Tauzin	Mar 25th



Happy Anniversary

"Every action we take, everything we do, is either a victory or defeat in the struggle to become what we want to be." ~ Anne Byrhhe

◆ Robert VanPelt	4 Yrs Mar 13th
◆ Jerry McCormack	5 Yrs Mar 30th
◆ Mitchell Pilon	6 Yrs Mar 3rd
◆ Mark Ross	17 Yrs Mar 22nd



Bravos

Big thanks to Greg & Liz for getting the new Qualcomm site up and running.

Thank you to all the drivers that have helped me out on the Tulsa runs these past few months. It is much appreciated! Thank you – Dana

Bravo to the Derek, Tyler and Tim for moving the front office furniture (twice)

A Bravo to :Ailton & Robben. Boeing Called Saturday 8am in the morning with a Red Hot Emergency shipment from the Los Angeles, CA area that needed to be in Everett the next day. Ailton & Robben worked together and put the shipment on a truck that already had SPD freight on it and delivered next day. They made SPD look like Heroes! This was all done from their homes early on a Saturday Morning.

I would like to give a HUGE bravo to Liz for helping with the filing! I think I can see light at the end of the tunnel! Thank you so much Liz! =)

Team Putman wanted to send out a big thank you to Tommy in truck 28 for taking great care of their trailer and making their three drops. They truly appreciate Tommy going the extra mile with regards to their trailer!



~~ Help save the trees! The Distributor is now offered in a PDF format delivered directly to your email! Give Liz in the trailer your email address to have future copies sent to you, instead of cluttering up your box at the office. Also they are in Color~

More Reasons to lock up! Tractor-trailer cargo thefts on the rise in Pennsylvania



Thieves tend to migrate to places where law enforcement and the industry's best practices haven't caught on.

The Associated Press

3/1/2010

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Authorities say thieves are increasingly targeting tractor-trailers in Pennsylvania to steal their loads of electronics, food or drink, later abandoning the trailers at the side of the road.

Sometimes the culprits steal trucks left idling at rest stops, or they try to find a way past warehouse security systems to take trucks during the night. On Jan. 8, for example, a tractor-trailer loaded with Coca-Cola products was stolen from a warehouse in Lemoyne, and the empty trailer turned up the next day in Camden County, N.J.

"It was loaded and ready to go for a morning driver to come into work," said Michael Hope, the chief of the West Shore Regional Police. "When they came in, the truck was gone. It appears they just want the cargo." Freight Watch International says cargo thefts have steadily increased since 2007. A total of 859 thefts were reported in 2009, and Pennsylvania was the eighth most-targeted state.

Walt Fountain, director of enterprise security for the Green Bay, Wisc.-based Schneider National trucking firm, said thieves are increasingly targeting trucks along Interstates 76, 81 and 83 in Pennsylvania. Over the last year and a half, they have also trained their sights on distribution centers, he said.

Thieves tend to migrate to places where law enforcement and the industry's best practices haven't caught on, he said.

Fountain described the thieves as organized crews often numbering eight to 10 people with specialized jobs that monitor targets to gauge security gaps. Such thefts were common in Florida and Georgia several years ago and then moved to Dallas after police cracked down. Since then, they have moved north through Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio and now into Pennsylvania.

"I think what they're doing is they're looking for new areas of opportunity," Fountain said. "I think it's really a reaction to where they think there's a density of freight that's vulnerable."

State police spokesman Thomas Pinkerton in Harrisburg agrees that the problem is statewide. "We're finding this is occurring here, Reading, Scranton, some places out west," Pinkerton said. He said police have been offering suggestions to protect cargo.

Truckers said preventing thefts hinges on keeping alert, even in busy rest stops surrounded by dozens of other trucks and people.

Jeremy Nissley, 22, said he keeps an eye on his rig even when he is at home on his Middletown poultry farm.

"It's sitting on a farm in the middle of nowhere, and we still lock it," he said.





From the Safety Department

Hey drivers this is your favorite Safety Director of all time throwing out a shout to you!!

As I'm sure all of you are aware, there are going to be some big changes coming up with the new CVSA 2010 program being implemented this July. A lot of you have gathered information from the internet, radio and I'm sure discussions with other drivers. I want to inform you all that the safety department has some specific training material with regards to CVSA 2010 that we will be going over with drivers either in small groups or individually. More than ever the emphasis are going to be focused on the drives, so let's keep in mind that all the tickets, warnings and violations you receive NOW will count against you when CVSA 2010 comes out in July. More than ever it's important to try to avoid these things.

Also I want to give you a heads up ahead of time that the safety department will be hitting driver's up do more ongoing training, remember this is a requirement for professional drivers and for "US" as a company to be in compliance with DOT regulations. So let's keep a great attitude and work together as a team to get this training done! **Ken DeRocher, Safety Director**

Tips for dealing with fog

- Slow down when you enter a patch of fog and increase following distance. If you can see the trailer in front of you in extremely dense fog, you're driving too fast and too close.
- Use your wipers and defroster to remove moisture from the windshield.
- Roll down window and listen for vehicles suddenly braking.
- Use the "fog line" on the right edge of the road as a guide.
- Watch out for slow-moving and parked vehicles.
- Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles.
- Pulling off to the side of the road isn't recommended.

Transportation Programs Facing Shutdown Due to Funding Conflict

By Oliver B. Patton, Washington Editor 2/26/10

It appears possible that major federal transportation programs will have to be temporarily shut down early next week, due to a congressional conflict over funding.

In addition, unless the conflict is resolved, some 4,000 employees of the federal Department of Transportation will have to be furloughed on Tuesday, said Rep. Jim Oberstar, D-Minn.

Friday afternoon Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., objected to a request for a short-term extension of the federal highway program, and then threatened a filibuster. The extension is needed to give Congress time to pass a jobs measure that includes an extension of the highway program through the end of the year.

Oberstar, who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said that the result of Bunning's "rather arbitrary and willful action" is that starting Monday, March 1 the Department of Transportation will not be able to reimburse states for their share of federal highway or transit funding. Further, furloughs of DOT employees will have to begin on Tuesday, he said.

"That means the entire Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, some portions of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and some elements of the Research and Innovative Technology will cease operation (and) their employees will be furloughed. That will be a total of 4,000 employees furloughed beginning Tuesday, March 2."

Truck safety programs will stop, Oberstar said. The funding that FMCSA provides to state safety enforcement through the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program will stop, so there will be no roadside safety enforcement unless states continue without federal support.

"None of that will happen because there will no funding for it and if there's a furlough on Tuesday there won't be any personnel available for enforcement action," Oberstar said.

He said he has not heard from the Senate on when the issue might be resolved. If the shutdown lasts all week, the states could lose \$951 million in federal support, and many will withhold their bid lettings, which will lead to job losses.

"This is just a terrible turn of events," he said.

Highway interests expressed alarm.

"We are deeply concerned about the severe impacts to state and local transportation programs of this disruption of the federal highway and transit programs," said John Horsley, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in a statement.

He noted that Oberstar, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., have an agreement that will enable the House to pass the Senate version of an extension of the highway and transit programs, with the understanding that a later legislative fix will revise the distribution of highway discretionary funds.

"We hope Congress can move this legislation as early in the week as possible so reimbursements to the states can resume," Horsley said.

FYI

PrePass Adds More Locations

More weigh stations have recently been equipped with PrePass technology. These include new sites in West Point, Iowa (US-218), Hyattstown, Md. (I-270), New Market, Md. (I-70), New Buffalo, Mich. (I-94) and Monroe, Mich. (I-75). PrePass is active at 287 facilities nationwide.

Virginia Reopens Rest Stops

Acting on an appeal by new Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, the Commonwealth Transportation Board voted Jan. 20 to reopen 19 highway rest stops that were closed last year by the former governor to save money. McDonnell told the board that prison inmate labor and private contributions would help to defray the costs of reopening the rest stops.

Truck-Related Deaths Decline

Trucking safety is improving, according to the latest figures from the Federal Highway Administration. The truck-involved fatality rate in 2008 declined 12.3 percent to 1.86 per 100 million miles from 2.12 per 100 million miles in 2007, the FHWA said. This decline marks the largest year-to-year drop ever and the fifth consecutive year the fatality rate has improved.

Freight Tonnage Increases

U.S. truck tonnage as calculated by the American Trucking Associations jumped 6.6 percent in December over the same month in 2008, the first year-over-year increase in 15 months, ATA said Jan. 25. ATA's seasonally adjusted for-hire truck tonnage index increased 2.1 percent in December.

39th Annual Mid-America Trucking Show - Thursday, March 25, 2010

Location: Kentucky Exp. Center

39th Annual Mid-America Trucking Show and PKY Truck Beauty Championship March 25-27, 2010

Location: Kentucky Exposition Center, 937 Phillips Ln 40209 Free Admission if you register to attend through website, www.truckingshow.com



For Laughs

The Cowboy boots

(for anyone who has ever dressed a child)

Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots?

He asked for help and she could see why.

Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on.

By the time they got the second boot on she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet", She looked, and sure enough they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots". She bit her tongue rather than get upset. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.

No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said. "They're my brother's boots. My mom made me wear 'em".

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry, but she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots back on his feet again.

Helping into his coat she asked "now where are your mittens?"

He said "I stuffed 'em in my boots so I wouldn't lose them".

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6	4		9		2		
		5		8			9